

The Historical Evolution of Two Ranchos and a Homestead: Agua Hedionda, Los Kiotes, and Rancho de los Quiotes

Introduction

Secluded within the mature tropical and native landscape of a broad coastal canyon is what remains today of a once massive 2,538 acre working rancho and homestead. Retreat to actor, philanthropist, poet, preservationist, and rancher, Leo Carrillo from 1937 to 1961, Rancho de los Quiotes (Ranch of the Spanish Daggers) is located at 6200 Flying LC Lane, in Carlsbad, California. Situated approximately 35 miles north of the city of San Diego on the Pacific Coast, Los Quiotes provides an exceptional opportunity for visitors to discover and explore the history of the native peoples of the region, Spanish Colonial exploration and settlement in Alta California, Mexican and American Period Ranching, and the life, times, and significant contributions of Leo Carrillo and his family.

Municipally owned and managed, Los Quiotes is a 27 acre historic park which contains and protects many of the original historic structures and outbuildings associated with Leo Carrillo's tenure and use of the Ranch—*hacienda* (main house wing and bedroom complex), wash house, Deedie's House, tack and feed house, carriage house, cantina, stable, hay barn, caretaker's house and garage, swimming pool and *cabaña*, foundry and equipment shed, water tank, and other auxiliary structures including bridges, walls, fences, windmills and a stone weir dam.

Constructed in a fusion of Spanish colonial, Southwestern, and California Rancho styles, it is likely that the design of the *hacienda* was derived at least in part by the designs of architect Cliff May, and his Ranch Homes that were immensely popular in the 1930s. A photograph of Carrillo's stable complex is featured in the 1958 first edition of *Western Ranch Houses*.¹ The choice of architecture was inspired from his many visits to his great-uncle's Santa Monica rancho, and his fond childhood memories. For Carrillo, the style represented a tangible connection to his proud Spanish ancestry, and reinforced his image as a real *vaquero* (cowboy).

(Fig. 1. Overview of the Hacienda Complex
[Source: Carrillo Ranch Archives])

This paper will examine the historic *hacienda* complex at Los Quiotes, the architectural design and layout, and the life and times of Leo Carrillo and his family. In addition, the paper will examine the important history of the region which preceded Carrillo's arrival. The information gleaned from the research may be used in the completion of sections seven and eight of the National Register nomination form.

Rancho de los Quiotes is significant under *Criterion B*, for its association with Leo Carrillo from 1937 to 1961 (Hispanic Ethnic Heritage); *Criterion C*, for its outstanding example of vernacular architecture, design, and style; and *Criterion A* for the pattern of

¹ Cliff May, *Western Ranch Houses*. Menlo Park: Lane Publishing Company, 1958).

events that contributed to and shaped the agricultural history of the ranch and surrounding region.

The Hacienda at Los Quiotes

The hacienda at Los Quiotes is bordered on two sides by small, gently flowing creeks, towering Queen Palms, Aloe Vera, Dragon Trees, Coast Live Oak, and a variety of different species of cacti. The site of Carrillo's home is purposefully oriented to take full advantage of the availability of fresh water for livestock and farming, as well as the warm summer daylight and the cool ocean breezes. The courtyard of the residence opens to the west and is surrounded by gently rolling hills. From the highpoints of the ranch, Carrillo had a commanding view of the Pacific Ocean.

(Fig. 2. Hacienda Courtyard
[Source: Carrillo Ranch Archives])

Constructed in a U-shape configuration, the home is 67 feet deep and 112 feet wide. It is composed of three individual single-story buildings joined by a pitched roof. A flagstone courtyard patio is hidden from view by arched adobe walls. An ornately decorated wrought iron gate protects the home's entrance. Low stone and adobe walls enclose a flagstone patio and courtyard on the northeast side of the building.

The main wing of the hacienda preserves the four original adobe walls of the 1880s Kelly family homestead. A covered walkway between the center (Horseman's Bedroom) and southern wings (Leo, Deedie, and Tony's bedrooms) joins the arcade to the courtyard. A raised curb at the entrance is inscribed with the Carrillo's warm welcome, "Su Casa Amigo" ("Your House Friend"). Heavy wood posts and adobe columns support the overhanging veranda roof. Exposed support beams have been adzed and burned to provide a hand-cut, aged appearance. The floor of the veranda and surrounding walkways is handcrafted Mexican clay tile. A circular concrete and stone planter which once served as a pond, and contained Lilies, Lotus, and Koi, is situated in the center of the courtyard. Two stone archways precede a set of stairs, which lead to the flagstone patio and the open lawn area below.

The adobe walls of the hacienda are plastered and painted. The foundations are stone and concrete mortar, and each varies in height as the ground level slopes downward to the west. The wood-framed windows are a mixture of multi-paned casement windows, and nine-over-nine double-hung windows, complete with original wood frame screens in a few places.

The roof is comprised of three interconnected gables that link the three wings and the veranda together, and is constructed of adzed rafters above the veranda; open beams, straight board planks, and topped with Mission clay tile roofing. Four chimneys decorate the roofline.

The thick, heavily plastered adobe walls define the interiors of the building. The ceilings are exposed, with adzed beam and straight board sheathing. Rounded adobe fireplaces, complete with their own adjoining adobe benches are located in the corner of the rooms. Small recessed niches are common throughout, and are set into the wall at floor level to accommodate freestanding electric space heaters. The doors are constructed from heavy wood planks and adorned by unique ornamental hardware that was created especially by Carrillo's blacksmith.

The living room in the main wing is long and narrow, with two corner fireplaces to provide both heat and atmosphere. An inset religious niche (shrine), wired for electricity and complete with a built-in bowl for holy water, is located on the north wall. Inscribed in the arch are the words "Madremia" (Mother Mary).

The central wing contains a single bedroom (Horseman's Bedroom), bathroom, and a spacious walk-in closet. The ceiling is exposed open truss and plank, and complementary, decorative wrought iron tie rods and turnbuckles were added for reinforcement when the buildings were seismically stabilized in the 1990s.

The southern wing contains two bedrooms with walk-in closets that are joined by a master bathroom—complete with a large built-in, sunken, tiled bathtub and shower. A corner fireplace is located in both rooms, and recessed; floor level-niches provide a safe and convenient placement for the electric space heaters. All of the rooms are situated with a commanding view of the interior courtyard.

Historic Overview: The Evolving Landscape

Essential to the overall understanding of Rancho de los Quiotes is the knowledge of the important broad and diverse social and cultural influences which contributed greatly to its development; Native Americans, Spanish colonial explorers, Mexican Ranchers and the immense land grants issued by the government, American cattle ranchers, homesteaders, businessmen, and families.

Pre-European Contact

Archaeological studies have revealed that for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Spanish explorers, the area that today comprises much of northern San Diego County, including portions of present-day Los Quiotes, was occupied by Native Americans. Significant archaeological sites belonging to the Luiseño—a name given by the Spanish explorers to describe Native Americans associated with Mission San Luis Rey—have been documented and recorded on the Ranch. Field tests conducted on the property in 1991 indicated that there were two sites yet to be formally recognized that were, "comprised of flakes, chopping tools, scrapers, and manos . . ."² Further field investigation and study identified a site of cultural significance (CA-SDI-12740B)

² Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, "Historic Structures Report for Carrillo Ranch." (Carlsbad, CA: City of Carlsbad, Redevelopment Office, 1991, photocopied).

containing, “milling tools, debitage from tool making, shell . . .” and a “Late Period habitation camp occupied circa 680 years ago.”³

The Luiseño lived in independent village groups, each with a defined area for collecting, hunting, fishing, and small-scale horticulture. The nearby coastline, rivers, and mountains provided a wide range of resources such as deer, rabbit, sea mammals, fish, shellfish, prickly pear, yucca, and wild berries. Villages were usually located near sources of fresh water—a necessity for both life and leaching tannic acid from acorns which were an important regional food source.⁴

Spanish Colonial Exploration

Through Volume II of Hubert Howe Bancroft’s *History of California*, Carrillo proudly traced his family’s origins as far back as 1260 to Albornoz in the Castilian region of Spain.⁵ Carrillo recalled in his book *The California I Love*:

We certainly infiltrated California. When José Raimundo Carrillo, my great-great grandfather and the companion of Father Junípero Serra, trudged the bloody, weary 1000 miles from Loreto up the jagged back-bone of Baja California to help find the new colony of ‘Alta California’ in 1769, he mulched a family tree that has spread its branches along El Camino Real and all of its byways.⁶

Father Serra married José Raimundo and Tomasa Ignacia Lugo while he was assigned to the *Presidio de San Diego* in 1781. Shortly thereafter, José Raimundo would join Gaspar de Portolá in his overland journey northward in an effort to locate the lost Peninsula and Bay of Monterey

The earliest written records of the region’s history can be traced back to Spain’s 1769 Sacred Expedition. The principle goal of the expedition led by Franciscan Father Junípero Serra, and Military Commander Gaspar de Portolá, was twofold; first they were to map geographic areas of Alta California, and then designate sites appropriate for towns and missions based on the location and availability of a native workforce.⁷

Upon arrival in San Diego, Father Serra decided to remain behind at the Presidio, and instead sent his counterpart, Father Crespi ahead with Portolá on the overland route north. Carlsbad historian, Susan Gutierrez writes, “Their journals describe traveling over a good road that would later become the genesis of El Camino Real, and meeting up with the various peoples who lived around the lagoons. The soldiers who accompanied the

³ KTU+A, “Leo Carrillo Ranch Park Master Plan” (Carlsbad, CA: City of Carlsbad, Community Services Department, 1998, photocopied), 2-25.

⁴ William C. Sturtevant and Robert F. Heizer, eds., *Handbook of North American Indians: California*. Vol. 8, *Luiseño* by Lowell John Bean and Florence C. Shipek (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1978), 550-563.

⁵ Leo Carrillo, *The California I Love* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1961), 15

⁶ *Ibid.*, 14.

⁷ Susan Schnebelen Gutierrez, *Windows on the Past: An Illustrated History of Carlsbad, California* (Virginia: The Donning Company/Publishers, 2002), 9.

expedition named the lagoon *Agua Hedionda*, which meant ‘stinking water’.”⁸ Mission San Luis Rey de Francia was established ten miles north of Agua Hedionda in 1798 by Father Lausen. Spain exercised her profound influence, dominance, and control over the entire region.

Mexican Period

In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain, and by 1823 the mission period had come to a conclusion. In 1842, Governor Juan Batista Alvarado issued a private 13,311 acre land grant to Juan María Romoulo Marrón, dividing Mission San Luis Rey’s landholdings into five distinct and separate parcels—Agua Hedionda, Buena Vista, Encinitas, Guajome, and Los Vallecitos de San Marcos. The boundaries of Agua Hedionda provided the land base and further defined the future geographic boundaries for much of present-day Carlsbad, which included a substantial portion of the original 2,538 acres of land belonging to Rancho de los Quiotes

American Period

After Juan María’s death in 1853, beset by financial difficulties, his widow and children obtained mortgages on Agua Hedionda and by 1860 they leased out a majority of the remaining acreage to rancher and businessman, Francis Hinton, and a small portion to their neighbor, Joe Manasse. Records indicate that both principle and interest was not repaid on the lease-loans. The eventual 1865 property title transfer of Agua Hedionda to Francis Hinton “. . . seems to have been based on the default of his own trust deed plus the Manasse lease which he had also purchased.”⁹ The Marróns contested the transfer in court arguing that the “. . . trust deed was not intended as an instrument of foreclosure, but merely a security for a loan which would eventually be repaid.”¹⁰

The Kelly Family, Rancho Agua Hedionda, and Rancho de los Quiotes

Francis Hinton employed skilled rancher and businessman, Robert Kelly as his majordomo in charge of operations at Rancho Agua Hedionda. Francis Hinton’s death in 1870 marked the inheritance of Rancho Agua Hedionda by Robert Kelly. In his Last Will and Testament, Hinton writes, “I give and bequeath to Robert Kelley [*sic*] . . . my Ranch of Agua Hedionda, together with all the cattle thereon belonging to me . . . also all my manadas [herds], colts, horses, and mules with my brand.”¹¹ In spite of several legal challenges by Hinton relatives and Marrón family members, Kelly was able to maintain legal title and ownership of the Rancho—members of the Hinton family inherited property elsewhere, and the family of Sylvester Marrón (Juan María’s younger brother) finally gained ownership of a 362-acre plot of land on the northern boundary of Agua Hedionda known as Riconada de Buena Vista.

⁸ Ibid., 9.

⁹ Marje Howard-Jones, *Seekers of the Spring: A History of Carlsbad* (Carlsbad: The Friends of Carlsbad Library, 1982), 20.

¹⁰ Ibid., 20.

¹¹ Charles Wesley Orton, *Carlsbad: An Unabashed History of the Village by the Sea* (Carlsbad: Rubicon Press, 1987), 16.

By 1868, Robert's brother, Matthew arrived from Wisconsin and established a sizeable homestead known as Rancho de los Kiotes, directly adjacent to Rancho Agua Hedionda's southernmost border. Matthew Kelly constructed a two story, wood-paneled adobe home, thirty feet wide and forty feet long, at the Los Kiotes homestead for his wife Emily and their six children.

He then quickly set about fencing a small plot of land for vegetable gardening and other family uses. Matthew's son, John Lincoln Kelly writes in his memoirs, "The small valley where father decided to settle was known by the Spanish name of 'Los Quiotes' [sic] which is Spanish for 'The Yuccas'—a beautiful flowering plant well known in this county, and which grew plentifully on the hills around there."¹² The first years on the ranch were productive for the Kelly family, but by 1872 a prolonged drought had set in and the family was forced to drive more than 500 head of their cattle to market in Salt Lake City. A small spring on the property that had been activated by an earthquake in the area provided an important and necessary source of drinking water for the family.

In 1885 Matthew Kelly died, and left title to Los Kiotes to his wife and children. Five years later, Matthew's children inherited Rancho Agua Hedionda from their Uncle Robert. A drawing was held to fairly divide the land into individual parcels among the family members, ensuring equitable access to prime grazing land and water. The next decade saw continued drought in the area, and typical land use on the ranch included dry farming of corn, beans, and hay.

Present-day Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park (Rancho de los Quiotes) is contained within the geographic boundaries of Matthew Kelly's historic homestead.

(Fig. 3. Remains of Matthew Kelly's Adobe
[Source: Carrillo Ranch Archives])

*Carrillo's Rancho de los Quiotes*¹³

In 1937, Leo Carrillo and his wife Edith purchased 1700 acres of land from Charles and Lavinia Kelly for \$17.00 per acre, and two years later purchased an additional 838 acres of land from Edward and Nettie Kelly (Fig. 5).¹⁴

For Carrillo, ownership of Los Quiotes was the result of a fireside conversation with a group of friends,

¹² John Lincoln Kelly, "Life on a San Diego County Ranch" (Carlsbad, CA: Carlsbad City Library, 1918, photocopied), 1.

¹³ Carrillo changed the Kelly family's spelling of "Kiotes" to "Quiotes" in 1937. Historians suggest that Carrillo did this to correct the earlier phonetic spelling error.

¹⁴ Dale Ballou May, "The Adobe Is My Birthstone: Leo Carrillo's Rancho de los Quiotes", *The Journal of San Diego History* Volume 35, Number 4 (Fall 1989): 245.

I said I wanted a climate that was mild where I could see the ocean, and be in it in 10 or 15 minutes. I went on and described this terrestrial paradise—the coo of the dove, the call of the quail, the moo of the cow summoning her little baby who perhaps was in danger of the coyotes that were howling about. I romanced it all over the place.

Then I added I would like to get an old adobe which was forgotten, but not too late to save, and rebuild it, and put it back where it was 100 years ago.

My description was so complete it evidently left its mark on the mind of several of my listeners, and Sterling Hebbard who dealt in ranches kept thinking about it. Finally, one day, he stumbled onto a place and called me on the telephone and said:

‘Say, Leo, remember that description you gave of what you would like to have in the form of a ranch? Maybe I’ve found it. Can you come out with me one day this week?’

We drove down back of Carlsbad, on El Camino Real. It was spring. The hills were covered with wild flowers. A few dairy cattle were grazing at the site Sterling pointed out. The house was abandoned, but it was adobe, and I thought it could be saved. I looked from the top of the hill down at the view, the rolling hills and the little valley, and I said, ‘If there is enough water there for domestic purposes I would like to buy it. See what the deal is.’ He got me the deal in a day or so and I gave him a deposit, and bought it.¹⁵

Carrillo promptly set about constructing the ranch, with the assistance of his foreman and friend, Cruz Mendoza. Mendoza’s distinctive building style was heavily influenced by his early experiences constructing adobe homes in Deming, New Mexico in the 1920s. Carrillo was extremely pleased with the quality of Mendoza’s efforts, and granted him an increasing amount of freedom and influence in future building design and construction.

From 1937 to 1940 building steadily continued on the ranch with the construction of a hacienda (main house and bedroom complex), wash house, Deedie’s House, tack and feed house, carriage house, cantina, stable, hay barn, caretaker’s house and garage, swimming pool and cabaña, foundry and equipment shed, water tank, and other auxiliary structures including bridges, walls, fences, windmills and a stone weir dam.

When Carrillo first purchased the property, he would often sit and ponder the overall design and development of his newly acquired rancho. Four deteriorated walls of the second Kelly family home from the 1880s remained on the property, which Carrillo decided to preserve and incorporate into the main wing of his hacienda.

Carrillo writes in his memoirs, “I don’t know the size of the rooms, because I stepped off and put a stake at the corner and squared it off and said, ‘Put a room here, put a room

¹⁵ Leo Carrillo, *The California I Love* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1961), 15.

there, put an arch over here, and we'll take these old bedrooms that are still standing and clean 'em up and make a living room out of the two front bedrooms. Then the old dining room we'll turn into a kitchen.'"¹⁶

Carrillo retreated to Rancho de los Quiotes—a hideaway from the hectic and fast-paced lifestyle of Hollywood. For him, the ranch embodied the spirit of his ancestors, a return to his cherished memories of life in early California. Dozens of Hollywood notables, such as Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Jane Withers, Jack Oakie, and Duncan Renaldo would visit and participate in Carrillo's lavish fiestas and branding parties during Hollywood's Golden Era.

(Fig. 4. Leo, Deedie, and Friends Celebrate Tony's Birthday at Los Quiotes
[Source: Carrillo Ranch Archives])

It was a true working rancho as well, with more than 600 head of horses and cattle being kept on the property during its heyday. Crops such as alfalfa and corn, and citrus and other fruit trees were planted throughout.

(Fig. 5. Cattle Grazing at Los Quiotes
[Source: Carrillo Ranch Archives])

To provide for his retirement and the future financial security of his daughter Antoinette, in 1959 Carrillo began liquidating portions of his rancho. He writes,

They are crowding me all around with great subdivisions and gentlemen's estates and an airport about seven or eight minutes from the front gate. It makes it convenient in many ways but the old isolation, the lazy mornings when nobody was around, the feeling of being off by yourself, all of these are vanishing.¹⁷

The Decline of Los Quiotes

Leo Carrillo died in 1961, at the age of 81, at his residence in Santa Monica. Leo's daughter, Antoinette lived at the ranch full-time after her father's death, continuing to manage his personal and business affairs. Carrillo's successful career in movies and television made it possible for him to live the dream of owning and operating a real working rancho, but created a tremendous financial and maintenance burden for his daughter.

The ranch fell into a sharp state of decline and many of the buildings were allowed to freely deteriorate and decay. The cost of maintaining the rancho was more than Antoinette could bear, and in 1961 she sold the ranch to developer Byron White's Carrillo Ranch Partnership with the provision that she could remain at the ranch house for as long as she desired. In a 1977 trade of land in exchange for fees, developers of the

¹⁶ Ibid., 228.

¹⁷ Ibid., 230.

Rancho Carrillo subdivision dedicated 10.5 acres of the 884 remaining acres of land—including a majority of the historic structures—as a future park for the benefit of the citizens of Carlsbad and the surrounding community.¹⁸ In 1978, many of the family’s personal belongings were sold at public auction, and the City of Carlsbad officially took possession of the ranch.

Beginning in 1978, the City hired a series of caretakers who lived at the ranch, and cared for the property while funding for development was pursued. In the meantime the City acquired an additional 17 acres of land, increasing the overall landholding to 27 acres.

The ranch remained largely untouched until 1991 when a Historic Structures Report was commissioned by the City of Carlsbad “as a support document for the overall restoration plan of the historic Leo Carrillo Ranch.”¹⁹ Seismic stabilization and retrofitting of many of the existing historic adobe and wood structures was undertaken with funding provided by both State and Federal grants, and a comprehensive maintenance manual was developed to direct and aid in the care of the buildings. In the mid 1990s construction began in earnest on the housing development which now nearly surrounds the ranch on all sides. Hundreds of tract homes, many worth more than one million dollars, blanket the once barren hillsides. Major arterial roadways provided new access to the ranch as canyons were infilled to create convenient roadways, and a new elementary school was opened next door.

Park Period

In 1998, the City of Carlsbad took an important step in the approval of the *Leo Carrillo Ranch Park Master Plan* that “provides a vision, goals, opportunities, and recommendations based upon and determined by a thorough analysis of the site’s resources and Leo’s contributions to the history of California.”²⁰ The first two phases—of the three phases of development recommended by the Master Plan—were completed, a manager and curator was hired, and Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park was opened to the public on August 16, 2003. Many of the historic structures had been completely restored, including the caretaker’s residence, hacienda, and Deedie’s House.

Important infrastructure and site improvements were added: sewer, water, restrooms, interpretive signs, new main entrance and driveway, parking lots, trails, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved walkways.

In October 2004, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save America’s Treasures, and Home and Garden Television recognized Carrillo Ranch with their *Restore America: A Salute to Historic Preservation* award for being one of the top twelve sites in the United States engaged in excellence in historic preservation. As a result, the City

¹⁸ *Carlsbad Journal* (Carlsbad), 29 May – 4 June 1976.

¹⁹ Architect Milford Wayne Donaldson, “Historic Structures Report for Carrillo Ranch.” (Carlsbad, CA: City of Carlsbad, Redevelopment Office, 1991, photocopied).

²⁰ KTU+A, “Leo Carrillo Ranch Park Master Plan” (Carlsbad, CA: City of Carlsbad, Community Services Department, 1998, photocopied), 1-3.

received a \$25,000 grant award for the restoration of the historic stone masonry barbeque.

Proposed phase three projects will include renovation of the barn into a small theatre, restoration of the cantina, equipment shed, blacksmith shop, carriage house, and water tank. A botanical garden, picnic areas, trails, and additional restroom facility will also be added to enhance the visitor's experience of the ranch.

Carrillo realized that times were changing, but for him the preservation of the ranch meant that a bit of early California history would continue to persist. He writes,

I know in my heart that this time, as a living reality is gone forever. Yet, here along El Camino Real, I feel sometimes that it has returned. Once more the señoritas and the caballeros appear upon the horizon, music sounds, and I am able to picture these romantic scenes as if they were occurring again. Perhaps in a way, they do recur. Who can deny me my fancy?²¹

Leopoldo Antonio Carrillo

Leo Carrillo was born on August 6, 1880 in a small, single-story adobe house located on the Bell Block near the historic Plaza of the City of Los Angeles. Carrillo was descended from a prominent line of early Californians; his great-great-grandfather was José Raimundo Carrillo, a *Soldado de Cuero* (Leather Jacket Soldier) who in 1769 traveled alongside Franciscan Father Junípero Serra from Loreto, Baja California to help establish the first in a series of Missions and Presidios in Alta California. His great-grandfather, Carlos Antonio de Jesús Carrillo served as provisional Governor of California during the final years of Mexican government rule, and his father served as the Chief of Police for the City of Los Angeles.

(Fig. 6. Leo Carrillo at Los Quiotes
[Source: Carrillo Ranch Archives])

As a child, Carrillo frequently traveled from his parent's home in Santa Monica to visit the nearby rancho that belonged to his *tío* (uncle) Machado. These early visits made a profound impression on the young Carrillo; the warm and inviting feeling of the thick, sun-dried adobe brick walls, the handmade red tile roofs, the aroma of wood smoke emanating from the fireplaces, and the sights and sounds of the brightly colored peafowl that freely roamed the property fueled his dreams. Perhaps it was the memories of Carrillo's early visits to his great-uncle's rancho that served as the foundation for building his future Rancho de los Quiotes.

In 1896, Carrillo left his parent's home in Santa Monica and accepted a job under the employ of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Using the Chinese language skills he had acquired growing up in Los Angeles, Carrillo would translate for the laborers employed

²¹ Leo Carrillo, *The California I Love* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1961), 274.

by the railroad. While working on the railroad to finance his education, Carrillo attended St. Vincent's College and studied engineering. He could speak seven different languages; Chinese, Japanese, Italian, French, German, Spanish, and English. Upon graduation he moved to San Francisco to attend art school. Soon thereafter, he landed a job as a cartoonist at the *Examiner*, under the employ of William Randolph Hearst.

His career in the newspaper business would be short lived however, when he auditioned for, and received a part in a vaudeville show where he performed a monologue—telling stories in the dialects of the people he had met in his travels. His show at the Orpheum Theater was so successful that he soon took it on the road, traveling to the Haymarket Theater in Chicago and eventually on to the Proctor Theater in New York. While working at the Proctor Theater in 1913, he shared a room with his friend and mentor, Will Rogers.

After an evening performance at the Proctor Theater, Carrillo met his future wife, Edith “Deedie” Hazelbarth. They were soon married and purchased their first home in Freeport, Long Island. Around 1918, Carrillo and his wife Deedie adopted a baby girl, Marie Antoinette (Tony). In his memoirs, Leo wrote, “Then our daughter Antoinette came to us. From the first her soul was moulded [sic] in the image of my Edith’s. Antoinette gave our lives new purpose.”²²

By 1915, Carrillo had made the successful transition from vaudeville to theater, appearing on stages worldwide in a number of major plays including, *Upstairs and Down*, *Magnolia*, *Gypsy Jim*, *The Saint*, and *Lombardi Ltd*. By 1927, Universal, Paramount, United Artists, and Warner Brothers studios attracted a number of stage performers, including Carrillo, to act in motion pictures. Carrillo partnered with Hollywood producer Sam Warner and was paid \$2,750 for his work on an early four-reel, sound synchronized movie.

Carrillo's career required a tremendous amount of travel from his home in Long Island back and forth to the west coast where he spent a majority of his time making movies. In the mid 1920s, Carrillo purchased Los Alisos (The Sycamores), a small ranch located in the foothills of Santa Monica which served as the family's weekday residence, and was the precursor to the much larger Rancho de los Quiotes.

By 1937, Carrillo had already made at least 31 movies, and continued acting on the live stage as well. He was well known throughout southern California and the rest of the United States for his stunning horseback appearances in the annual New Year's Day Tournament of Roses Parade. He served as the honorary mayor of several cities. Actively involved in both conservation and preservation, Carrillo served 18 years on the California State Beaches and Parks Commission. His skillful negotiations were instrumental in obtaining both Hearst Castle and a portion of the Anza-Borrego Desert for the State Park System. In April 1959, in recognition of his dedication and service to the state of California, the Commission renamed a section of beach near Malibu in his honor—Leo Carrillo State Beach.

²² Ibid., 200.

Carrillo dedicated much of his later life to charitable and social causes. Immediately recognizable as *Pancho* from the 1950s television series *The Cisco Kid*, Carrillo made numerous appearances at State and County Fairs, sometimes meeting as many as 30,000 to 40,000 children at a time. While on tour, he visited hundreds of children's hospitals, and donated funds to save a failing elementary school in Texas. He and his wife Deedie established a Trust which would later benefit California State Beaches and Parks.

(Fig. 7. Duncan Renaldo as the *Cisco Kid* and Leo Carrillo as *Pancho* Promote Healthy Teeth [Source: Carrillo Ranch Archives])

From 1927 to 1950, Carrillo appeared in more than 90 motion pictures—*Love Me Forever*, *The Gay Amigo*, *Before Morning*, *Viva Villa*—making him one of the most recognized character actors of Hollywood's Golden Era.

Leo Carrillo died in 1961, at the age of 81, at his residence in Santa Monica—the same year his book, *The California I Love* was published posthumously. More than 1,000 people attended his funeral at St. Monica's Catholic Church. Hotel magnate Conrad Hilton offered the following tribute, "His warmth and vitality sparked many memorable occasions. Now the world has lost an ambassador of goodwill. I shall always remember him this way . . . as my dear friend."²³

Conclusion

Rancho de los Quiotes remains today as a significant and important example of one man's contributions to California—reflected in a life of good deeds and a dedication to charitable causes. Carrillo's desire to connect with the history of his ancestors led to the creation of a distinctive and irreplaceable piece of vernacular architecture. The preservation of Los Quiotes provides a rare opportunity to reflect upon and learn about the history of early California and the forces that shaped and impacted the surrounding community.

Despite being almost completely surrounded by development, it is still possible for visitors today to quietly disappear within the thick handcrafted walls of the hacienda, and experience, if only for a moment, what Carrillo worked so hard to create. He writes, "I like to think that this typifies the kind of thing that we are carrying on here—the new aiding the old, the present conjuring up splendid images out of the past and continuing traditions so that we can enjoy them today."²⁴

²³ Friends of Carrillo Ranch, "An Introduction to Carrillo Ranch: What, Where, When, Who" (Carlsbad, CA.: Recreation Department, 1992)

²⁴ Leo Carrillo, *The California I Love* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1961), 276.



Figure 1. Overview of the Hacienda Complex
Carrillo Ranch Archives



Figure 2. Hacienda Courtyard
Carrillo Ranch Archives



Figure 3. Remains of Matthew Kelly's Adobe
Carrillo Ranch Archives



Figure 4. Leo, Deedie, and Friends Celebrate Tony's Birthday at Los Quiotes
Carrillo Ranch Archives



Figure 5. Cattle Grazing at Los Quiotes
Carrillo Ranch Archives

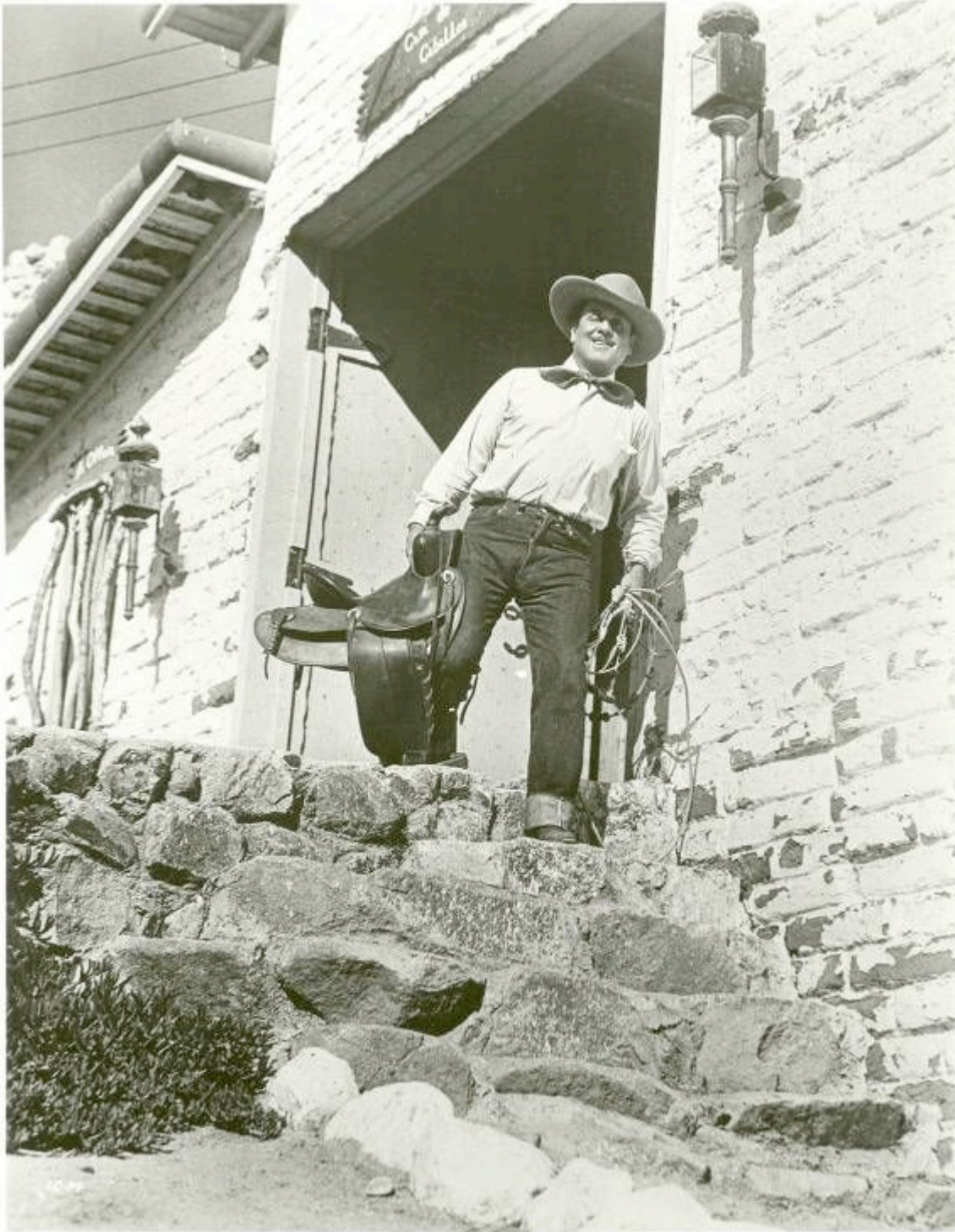


Figure 6. Leo Carrillo at Los Quiotes
Carrillo Ranch Archives



Figure 7. Duncan Renaldo as the *Cisco Kid* and Leo Carrillo as *Pancho*
Promote Healthy Teeth
Carrillo Ranch Archives